

City Council of the Mayor and Council of New Castle
Regular Council Meeting at Town Hall – 201 Delaware Street – New Castle
Tuesday – March 9, 2010 – 7 p.m.

Present:

Council President William Barthel
Councilperson John Cochran
Councilperson John Gaworski
Councilperson Ted Megginson

Absent:

Councilperson Teel Petty

Also present: Treasurer Janet Carlin, City Administrator Cathryn Thomas, Police Chief Kevin McDerby, Building Official Jeff Bergstrom, City Solicitor Roger Akin

Approval of Minutes by Date

A motion was made by Councilperson Gaworski to approve the minutes of February 9 and 12 as written. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Cochran. The motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Carlin reported that, as of February 28, 2010, total petty cash on hand was \$400; monthly, deposit, \$77,939.19; total cash for Wilmington Trust accounts, \$279,544.34; total certificates of deposit and Delaware Government Investment Pool, \$1,765,701.62; and total cash on hand, \$2,045,245.96.

Councilperson Cochran made a motion to accept the report as presented. Councilperson Megginson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Report from the City Administrator

Administrator Thomas highlighted several items from her written report. She has been working on compiling information for the county in hopes of getting FEMA reimbursement for the costs of the snow emergency. She praised Bud Waraksa for his efforts on compiling information New Castle County requested. The City is looking for reimbursement of roughly \$48,000.

There are some monitions sales going forward. Three properties are coming up for sale in April. Finance Director Marian Delaney worked with Kathryn Lee in the City Solicitor's office on this area. Councilperson Megginson, President Barthel, Building Official Bergstrom and Solicitor Akin also worked on this.

The City received word on funding from the Trustees of New Castle Common for the upcoming year for a police car, \$30,200; recreation funding, \$750; garbage truck, \$32,500; and general greenscape management \$5,000. Further funding of \$85,000 is provided to the City as a pass-through item earmarked for the Good Will Fire Company. Also from the current year budget, the Trustees have reimbursed the City for the total cost of a new snow blower, \$3,200. Mrs. Thomas thanked Public Works Foreman Erv Thatcher for his work on the City's behalf regarding the snow blower.

She also has worked with Finance Director Delaney on reviewing software and attended, with Mr. Bergstrom, pre-construction meetings related to the stormwater management projects.

Council President Barthel said the report was accepted as presented.

Approval of Staff Reports

Council President Barthel said the staff reports were accepted as presented in the packets.

Grant Review

Councilperson Cochran said the grant income for February 2010 were Police drug grant, \$4,377.99; Police SALLE grant, \$5,200. Grant expense: drug grant for \$1,322.45.

Business from the Floor (concerning agenda items only)

Erv Thatcher, of W. 7th St, said he has lived on the street since 1964. When he moved there, there were 50 cars a day on street now there 600 to 1,000 each day. He has been to Council before about the traffic issue. Council has to do something about the flow of traffic. Every car he has owned, but his current truck, has been hit when parked on 7th Street. He said Dr. Padmalingam has parking spaces but doesn't use them. His people park on Seventh Street.

James Whisman added that he has seen similar issues on Seventh Street because of parking on both sides. It is a serious problem.

Don Reese, of 7th Street, said today an empty Colonial District school bus came down the street, which is not supposed to occur. He also asked where are the results of the traffic study done on Sixth and Seventh streets.

President Barthel said the City will get the results.

Councilperson Gaworski said they have gotten poor cooperation from DeIDOT.

Business from the Council President

President Barthel read a letter from the New Castle Summer Concerts Committee requesting funds, \$870, for the 2010 Summer Concerts in Battery Park. The City Council will consider the funding during the budget process.

President Barthel also clarified the record related to funding from the Conservation District. He had believed funding would be coming as a reduction of expenses. They are providing the \$88,000 but it is not coming from a reduction of expenses. It will come from reserves.

Unfinished Business

1. Discussion concerning the Banks Building and a proposal to transfer ownership to the Trustees of the New Castle Common, including discussion of the current zoning for the parcel where the building is located.

President Barthel said Councilperson Petty really had wanted to take part in the discussion. She is not in attendance due to some personal matters and asked that it be tabled. It was tabled.

New Business

1. Motion, Discussion and Vote on a Resolution approving execution of an agreement among the City, the Trustees of the New Castle Common and the Good Will Fire Company, concerning the boat launch in Battery Park.

Councilperson Megginson made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilperson Gaworski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Discussion of a Rezoning Request from James Whisman for 700 Delaware Street with a current zoning designation of R2 Residential, requested to be changed to RC Retail Commercial.

President Barthel explained this is part of a new process where zoning requests come to City Council prior to going the Planning Commission. It now goes to the Planning Commission.

3. Motion, Discussion and Vote on a Resolution approving the appointment of Toby Hagerott to an existing vacancy on the Tree Commission.

The position has been vacant. The term of office is May 1, 2009 to April 30, 2010.

Councilperson Megginson made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilperson Cochran seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Motion, Discussion and Vote on a Resolution approving execution of an annual maintenance agreement for HVAC services for the three main City buildings.

Councilperson Cochran detailed the quotes received. Five quotes were requested and two were received: National had been the provider at a cost of \$6,692. The quotes this year were National, \$5,192, and Barry Refrigeration Co., \$3,894. It roughly saves the City \$3,000. There is also a 10% discount if paid up front.

Councilperson Cochran made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilperson Gaworski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

President Barthel thanked Councilperson Cochran for his work on the matter.

5. Discussion on a request from the New Castle City Board of Health for a change in the City Code which would require private solid waste collection companies to obtain business licenses.

Administrator Thomas explained the concerns of the Board of Health, as reported by John Lloyd, related to the wording of the Code on issuance of permits.

A public hearing was set for 6:30 p.m. prior to the April 13, 2010, meeting.

6. Comments from the floor.

Esther Lovlie asked for information on the group requesting funds for the concerts in the park.

President Barthel said it was from the Lions Club.

Councilperson Megginson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilperson Cochran seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Dickinson, City Clerk